

# Recovery Plan Action Status

Plan Name: Conasauga Logperch/Amber Darter (2 spp.)

Plan Status: Final

Plan Date: 20-Jun-86

Lead Agency: USFWS

Lead Office: Georgia Ecological Services Field Office

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Species	Action Priority #	Action #	Action Description	Action Status	Est. Initiation Date	Est. Completion Date	Responsible Parties	Work Type	Labor Type	Action Comments
Conasauga logperch (Percina jenkinsi), Amber darter (Percina antesella)	1	1.1	Continue to utilize existing legislation and regulations to protect species and their habitat	Ongoing Current	FY 1995 - FY 1999	FY 2076	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Division, U.S. Forest Service, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency , USFWS Regional Office 4 - Atlanta, Tennessee Heritage Program, GA and TN Nature Conservancy	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Notice of the draft Etowah HCP was published in the Federal Register and FWS is revising the document to reflect stakeholder concerns. FWS continues to (1) work with other Federal agencies to implement actions to conserve and recover the species, including review of Corps permit applications, FWHA proposed road projects, and other federal projects; (2)encourage establishment of Corps mitigation banks and Wetland Trust Fund sites to protect and restore high priority Conasauga and Etowah reaches; (3) work with private landowners under the PFW program to restore stream habitat; and (4) work with local governments to ensure long-term growth has the least impact on listed species and their habitats.

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Conasauga logperch ( <i>Percina jenkinsi</i> ), Amber darter ( <i>Percina antesella</i> )	1	1.2.2-1.2.3	Conduct research into life history and habitat requirements	Unknown	FY 2000 - FY 2004	FY 2020	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Division, U.S. Forest Service, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, USFWS Regional Office 4 - Atlanta, Tennessee Heritage Program, GA and TN Nature Conservancy	Research	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert	Genetic diversity of both species currently are under study. Additional studies are needed on the life history and habitat requirements of the Conasauga logperch. A single amber darter was located in the Coosawattee River July 2010 - surveys are underway to determine if a population exists in this river system.
Conasauga logperch ( <i>Percina jenkinsi</i> ), Amber darter ( <i>Percina antesella</i> )	1	1.2.4	Determine present and foreseeable threats	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004	FY 2020	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, GA and TN Nature Conservancy	Research, Research: Environmental Contaminants, Research: Genetics, Research: Other Information, Research: Population Assessment, Research: Population Surveys, Research: Propagation, Research: Reintroduction	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Field Assistance, Species Expert	UGA/USGS completed a study on primary Etowah basin stressors in 2007. Studies to evaluate Conasauga water quality (DO, agricultural/residential chemicals) began in FY09 and FY10, and a third study, to evaluate the benefits of infiltration BMPs on runoff in agricultural ditches began in FY10.

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Conasauga logperch ( <i>Percina jenkinsi</i> ), Amber darter ( <i>Percina antesella</i> )	2	1.2.5	Investigate the need for habitat improvement	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, GA and TN Nature Conservancy	Research	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert	UGA completed a study that prioritized reaches in the Conasauga for protection/restoration in 2008; a similar prioritization was conducted in the Etowah as part of the HCP. The Conasauga River National Wildlife Refuge proposal to protect the highest priority Conasauga reaches is awaiting WO approval. TNC has acquired high priority habitat in the Conasauga, and several mitigation banks have been established in both basins to enhance habitat for both species. FWS is working with consultants to develop protocols to establish conservation banks in high priority Etowah habitat.
Conasauga logperch ( <i>Percina jenkinsi</i> ), Amber darter ( <i>Percina antesella</i> )	3	1.2.6	Determine numbers of individuals needed to maintain viable populations	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Division	Research	Labor type not yet selected	USGS initiated a study in 2007 to determine current Conasauga logperch population numbers; genetic analysis completed by Anna George (TN Aquarium) in 2007 indicated a population on only 200 adults. Dr. George and Conservation Fisheries, Inc. currently are conducting more intensive genetics research.

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Conasauga logperch ( <i>Percina jenkinsi</i> ), Amber darter ( <i>Percina antesella</i> )	3	1.3	Solicit help in protecting species and critical habitats	Ongoing Current	FY 1995 - FY 1999		U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Division	Work type not yet selected	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Administrative, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert, Volunteer	FWS and Partners have assisted with formation of both the Upper Etowah River Alliance and the Conasauga River Alliance, which work to protect stream habitat in the respective basins. FWS and TNC have organized multiple Coosa or Conasauga Summits with representatives from industry, local governments, agriculture interests, environmental groups, academia, and land management to discuss aquatic stressors and protective measures.
Conasauga logperch ( <i>Percina jenkinsi</i> ), Amber darter ( <i>Percina antesella</i> )	3	1.4	Develop and utilize information and education programs (slide/tape shows, brochures, etc) for local distribution	Ongoing Current	FY 1995 - FY 1999		U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Division	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	FWS, TNC, and the Upper Etowah River Alliance are developing a set of playing cards to highlight the rare species of the Etowah and Conasauga basins and to educate about stressors. There is an informative Coosa Basin poster with high-quality photos of the rare aquatic species in the basin, and the Etowah HCP Outreach Coordinator has created numerous fact sheets and other outreach materials to educate about the amber darter and other rare fishes in the basin

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Amber darter (Percina antesella)	3	2	Search for additional populations and/or habitats	Ongoing Current	FY 2010	FY 2013	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Division	Research: Population Surveys	Species Expert	The Conasauga logperch is endemic to the basin; the amber darter was relocated in the Etowah basin in the 1990's - no other historic populations are known to have existed. However, a single amber darter was located in the Coosawattee below Carters dam July 2010 - it is not known if this poorly-sampled river supports an amber darter population, or if the collected fish was a vagrant.
Conasauga logperch (Percina jenkinsi), Amber darter (Percina antesella)	3	3	Determine the feasibility of reestablishing any historic populations of the species	Obsolete			U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Division	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	The Conasauga logperch is endemic to the Conasauga mainstem; the amber darter was relocated in the Etowah basin in the 1990's - no other historic populations are known to have existed
Conasauga logperch (Percina jenkinsi), Amber darter (Percina antesella)	2	4	Develop and implement a monitoring program	Ongoing Not Current	FY 1995 - FY 1999		U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Division	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	USGS has monitored 10 fixed locations in the Conasauga mainstem since 1996, but funding expired in 2009. Monitoring of amber darters in the Etowah basin remains sporadic due to lack of funding

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Conasauga logperch ( <i>Percina jenkinsi</i> ), Amber darter ( <i>Percina antesella</i> )	3	5	Annual assessment of recovery program and modify where needed	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Division	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	The first Coosa Summit was held in 2000; 3 other Coosa Summits and a separate Conasauga Summit (2008) have since been held to evaluate current research data and reevaluate recovery priorities.